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*Edwin J. Walker*

THE STORY

— OF —

MY ANCESTORS

IN AMERICA

— BY —

REV. EDWIN SAWYER WALKER, A. M.

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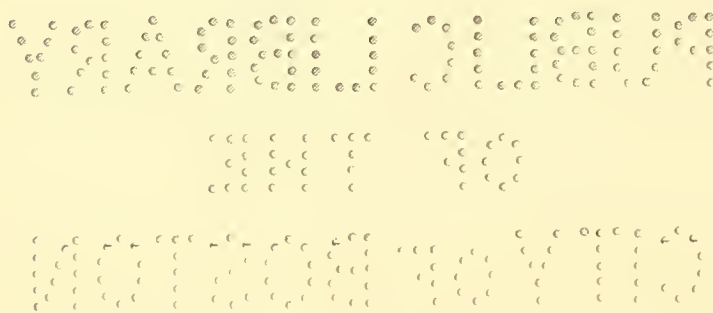
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"I learn immediately from any speaker how much he has already lived, through the poverty or the splendor of his speech. Life lies behind us, as the quarry from whence we get tiles and cope-stones, for the masonry of to-day. \* \* \* \* \* The office of the scholar is to cheer and to guide men, by showing them facts amidst appearances. Whatsoever oracles the human heart, in all emergencies, in all solemn hours, has uttered as its commentary on the world of actions—these shall he receive and impart."—*Emerson*.



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BY

EDWIN SAWYER WALKER.



TO  
THE ABIDING MEMORY  
OF  
MY EARLY ANCESTORS,  
PHILIP WALKER AND THOMAS SAWYER  
SAMUEL GILE AND WILLIAM GILKEY;  
WITH THEIR SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS,  
AND MY PARENTS,  
SAWYER WALKER, AND MALINDA GILE WALKER,  
THIS BOOK IS  
AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.

*affectionately dedicated to the dead*

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## INTRODUCTION.

OF the thirteen English Colonies in America, the predominant type of the people was Anglo-Saxon.

“Massachusetts was a mosaic of little village republics, firmly cemented together, and formed into a single body politic, through representatives sent to the General Court at Boston. Its people were purely English, of sound yeoman stock, with an abundant leaven drawn from the best of the Puritan gentry. The staple of character was a sturdy conscientiousness, an undespairing courage, patriotism, public spirit, sagacity, and a strong good sense.” This delineation of condition and character, drawn by the pen of that most eminent of American historians, Francis Parkman, sets forth in distinct lines, the moral and political status of the early settlers of New England. As is well known, the immigration which commenced in 1620, with the landing of the Mayflower, was inconsiderable until 1630. During the next decade, it reached an aggregate of 21,000 persons, at the close of which period it had almost entirely ceased. Thenceforward the people rapidly increased, for a hundred and fifty years, upon their own soil, and dwelt in comparative seclusion, so that it was not until near the close of the eighteenth century, that the great onward movement began, by which, now in the last decade of the nineteenth century, the descendants of the Pilgrims have occupied and possessed, the larger portion of the territory of the United States. No race has ever shown a more virile constitution, or more fully preserved its homogeneous character, than has the race of New Englanders, down to our own time.

It is estimated that there are, to-day, 8,000,000 of persons living in the United States, who were born descendants of, and can trace their origin to, the 21,000 Englishmen who

came to America before the year 1640. The original 4,000 families have multiplied two thousand fold. For a period of fifty years after the landing of the Mayflower, the colonists in Massachusetts-Bay, and Plymouth, for the most part, maintained friendly relations with the Indians, under their powerful chief, Massasoit. After his death, his second son, King Philip, Sachem of the Wampanoags, who had become jealous of the encroachments of the colonists, organized a confederation of the various tribes, embracing many thousand warriors, and went upon the war path. All the horrors of Indian warfare burst suddenly upon the settlers of eastern Massachusetts. In the single year, 1675 to 1676, ending with the capture and death of King Philip, the war cost the colonists the lives of 600 of their number, and the destruction, by fire and rapine, of property to the amount of over a million of dollars. Every eleventh house in the colony had been destroyed, and every eleventh soldier killed. Thirteen towns, among which were Rehoboth, Haverhill and Lancaster, were destroyed.

Counting my descent from ancestors, who were numbered among the first settlers of those three towns, in the old Commonwealth of Massachusetts, it is but the fulfilment of a purpose formed many years ago, that I place upon record, in these pages, the story of their heroic lives, as the humble tribute of a loving son. With Pilgrim and Puritan blood commingled in my veins, I owe both to the colony of Plymouth, and to the colony of Massachusetts-Bay, the homage of grateful remembrance. "Native to the manner born," of Vermont, the memory of her Green Mountains will never fade. To her freedom-loving people of the earlier days, worthy descendants from early Massachusetts stock, the historian of the future must ever look back, as to founders of the Republic. They were of such stuff as makes action heroic, and which constitutes enduring foundations. "They founded institutions which were to last as long as men should fear God, and love liberty."

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., August 11, 1895.



## THE WALKER FAMILY.

When the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth, in 1620, a tribe of Indians, called Wampanoags, inhabited the tract of country around the head of Narragansett Bay. At the head of this tribe was Massasoit, with whom the English always lived in friendship. In 1641 came Rev. Samuel Newman, a non-conformist minister, then settled at Weymouth, and purchased of Massasoit, a tract of land eight miles square, for settlement. The place was, by the Indians, named Seekonk, situated on the east bank of Providence river. With Mr. Newman came a large portion of the members of his church from Weymouth, and they named the place Rehoboth. Among those who were thus the first settlers of the town, was WIDOW WALKER, from whom a numerous race has sprung, in America.

In 1643 the lands purchased from Massasoit were divided among fifty-eight persons. Second on the list, of settlers and owners, stood the name, of Widow Walker. On this list, her estate was rated at £50. The grants to the several settlers, were made by the General Court. In 1644 there was a division of "woodland," made into fifty-eight shares. Of these shares Widow Walker had one, and two years later, in 1646, in the drawing for the "new meadow," another lot was assigned to her. Her name then disappears from the record. The year of her death, and place of burial are unknown.

### PHILIP WALKER.

The first record of PHILIP WALKER, to whom the attendant circumstances of his early coming, to Rehoboth, point as a son of Widow Walker, is a deed, with his sig-



nature attached, dated at Rehoboth in 1653. He had a brother James, who settled in Taunton. Philip Walker was by trade a weaver, but after his settlement in Rehoboth, he was a farmer.

From what part of England the family came, and the time of their arrival in this country, are alike unknown. It must have been as early as 1640. Philip came early into the possession of his mother's estate, and in 1654 he married Jane Metcalf. He was one of the grand jury in May 17, 1655, propounded for freedom June 8, 1655, and took the oath of fidelity June 1, 1658. On June 22, 1658, his name appears in the first division of Rehoboth North Purchase, when lots were drawn for "the meadow on the north side of the town," which is now Attleboro'; and again on the 26th of May, 1668, in the division of lands in the North Purchase. His home and farm were on Watchemoket Neck, on the road from Providence, Rhode Island, to what is now the little hamlet of Rumford, Rhode Island, an attractive spot of fertile land, overlooking Providence river. The ancient house erected by him, and in which he died in 1679, on y<sup>e</sup> 20. of August, is still standing in 1895. He held various positions of trust and honor, having been surveyor in 1657, constable in 1658, grand juror in 1668, selectman, and Deputy to Plymouth in 1669. He was also a Deacon in the church. During King Philip's war, the towns furnished money to carry it on, for the common defense. Many who served as soldiers contributed their share, and the list of these, still preserved, shows that the amount furnished by Philip Walker was £26. Rehoboth was isolated, and especially exposed to the incursions of the savages. The first and last blood, of that fierce struggle, in which King Philip, or Metacomet, son of Massasoit,





fought for the destruction of the colonists of New England, was shed in Rehoboth. It was there that the contest opened in 1675, and there it closed by the death of Philip in August, 1676. In March, 1676, the Indians fell upon Rehoboth, and burned forty houses, and their out-buildings. Among these was the house of Deacon Walker, which he replaced by the erection of a new one, though still unfinished, at the time of his death therein, three years later, in August, 1679. The various offices which he held, and his generous contributions for his country, and for Christ, are evidences of his character, and his usefulness as a citizen. At the time of his death he owned land, and estate, valued at £681, and, as the record shows, was one of the wealthiest men in Rehoboth, where there were eighty-three estates. Previous to the year 1879, the location of the burial place of Philip Walker, had for three or four generations, been lost. In the summer of that year Mr. Christopher Dexter, who is one of the owners of the old homestead, and a lineal descendant of Philip Walker, after a thorough search among the fallen grave-stones, in the ancient burying-ground at Seekonk, finally succeeded in his quest. Lying deeply imbedded in the turf, and almost covered over, he found the ancient slate stone, one among hundreds of others of similar character, on which was rudely chiseled this simple inscription:

P. W.

1679

Y<sup>e</sup> 21. August.

As the town records show that Philip Walker "was buried Aug. 21, 1679," and the stone found was in the vicinity of the graves of other Walkers, of later generations, there was left no reason to doubt, but that it marked the grave of Philip Walker.



This ancient stone is about two feet in length, ten inches in width at the bottom, and six inches in width at the top, by two and a half inches in thickness.

Mr. Dexter, with true and laudable reverence for the memory of our common ancestor, set up this old stone, at the foot of the ancient grave, and at its head, erected a new, substantial, and every way fitting stone, to mark the now memorable place, with this inscription:

THE GRAVE OF  
PHILIP WALKER  
BURIED

Y<sup>e</sup> 21. August 1679  
to his Memory  
Aug. 21. 1879

The following article from the columns of the *Providence Journal* of September 20, 1891, is so replete with items of interest, so picturesque in description, that it is inserted in these pages with pleasure, and with appreciative thanks to the unknown writer, for his valuable contribution.

AN ANCIENT HOMESTEAD. THE CELEBRATED WALKER FARM-  
HOUSE, IN EAST PROVIDENCE. A PICTURESQUE RELIC  
OF EARLY COLONIAL DAYS.

One of the quaintest of the many quaint houses in the ancient part of East Providence is the Walker homestead. Its old-fashioned well, with its long sweep, its well kept lawn and close trimmed hedges, and withal its ancient appearance, have long marked it as a place of interest. A short drive from this city, over the Red bridge, and midway between the bridge and the village of Rumford, there stands the ancient farm-house. Not a vestige of paint remains on its storm-worn exterior. The roof is peaked, the windows small, and but a passing glance will reveal its early architecture. The antiquity and quaintness of the structure are impressive, and, according to the tradition of the family which owns it, its erection dates from 1678 or thereabouts. The exact date cannot be determined. For over two hundred years





The Old Homestead of Philip Walker, "Seekonk," Massachusetts, erected in 1678.  
From a Photograph, taken in 1890.





the old house has withstood the wars of humanity, and of the elements. But time has laid its grip upon the old place, and its timbers are now showing signs of decay. The sills on the cellar walls, and which support the first floor, are of rough hewn timber, smoothed off on one side with an axe, and the shingles were made in the same rough manner.

The drive leading up to the farm, along Massasoit avenue, is one in which a visitor inhales the pure air, and enjoys the fine roadside scenery. It is a quiet spot, free from the noise and bustle which characterize city life; the bellowing of the cattle and the wind whistling through the trees, is all that breaks the stillness.

Everything about the old house seems to have been constructed with a view to durability, and at the time of its erection it was considered a marvel of architecture. At the south end of the building is an old well sweep, which betokens the presence of those cool waters, found only in the country, and it is a source of pleasure to a weary traveler on a hot summer's day, to lower the moss-covered bucket down into the pure sparkling water, and taste its refreshing coolness. On the north side of the old house, there is an apple orchard, and the inevitable concomitants of barn, shed, carriage house, chicken house, etc., which give the impression of home life, while in front, stand immense elm trees, with verdure-clothed branches, towering high above, and sheltering the old house, from the fury of the gale.

The interior of the dwelling also reminds one of the primitive style of house building, with its low ceiling, bare beams, and large open fireplaces. A huge brick chimney takes up no small part of the house, and is twelve by sixteen feet at its base. Some of the rooms are quite small, and the well-worn, boarded floors, are sunken, and present an uneven appearance. In the old house to-day can be seen many articles, which remind one of the Old World. In one of the small bedrooms, on the lower floor, there is an old set of bureaus, and a cupboard. Here is stored away a lot of ornamental blue crockery, which was brought from England, in the seventeenth century.

Away up in the garret, can be seen many old articles of furniture, that have lain there for generations. There are also old hand-loom, on which the Walkers, in the early part of the present century, used to weave carpets for home use.

Embracing about ninety-six acres, the farm is one of the largest in the town of East Providence, and is beautifully located, extending from Broadway, to the banks of the Seekonk. During

the summer may be seen fields of waving corn, and the pastures dotted with shady trees, about which cattle graze. About three hundred yards in the rear of the house, and shaded by a thick growth of trees, are a number of little hills, which are supposed to have been corn hills, where the Indians planted corn before the advent of the white man. These little mounds of earth have been there ever since Philip Walker, the founder of the old homestead, first received the grant of the land, in 1655. On the farm have been found, at various times, a number of Indian arrowheads, and a fine specimen of an Indian battle axe. These are now in the possession of Mr. Christopher Dexter, one of the present owners of the farm.

About the birthplace of Philip Walker, the original owner of the Walker homestead, nothing is known. His mother, known as Widow Walker, was one of the colony from Weymouth and Hingham, Mass., that formed the first general settlement in the town of East Providence, then a part of Rehoboth, in the spring of 1644. This colony of settlers was composed of fifty-eight men and their families. The first purchase of land, for the settlement of the town, was made in 1641, but it was not until 1644 that the first general settlement was made, although one John Hazell resided at Seekonk in 1642. From the quit claim deed of King Philip, in 1668, it appears that the first purchase of land included the original town of Rehoboth, and was made of Osamequin, more commonly known among the English as Massasoit, by John Brown, and Edward Winslow, of Plymouth. The first meeting of the original planters was held on April 9, 1645, and on the same day lots were drawn for the "Great Plain," beginning on the west side of the river. Widow Walker was among those who drew lots on that day.

June 22, 1658, the name of Philip Walker appears as one of the drawers in the first division of Rehoboth, when lots were drawn for the meadow on the north side of the town, and again on May 26, 1668, in the division of lands. Philip Walker was a weaver by occupation. He was very industrious, and accumulated a property, which was considered very large in those days. In the allotment, in 1671, his estate was estimated to be worth £387, which amount was exceeded by only two in the town, the whole number at that time being seventy-eight. In 1678 he was exceeded by only one, in the valuation of eighty-three estates. He held several positions of honor.

At a town meeting held March 17, 1655, he was chosen a grand juror. He was propounded for freedom June 8, 1655, and took the



oath of fidelity June 1, 1658. Among other positions he occupied, were those of surveyor, and constable. He was on the grand inquest, and served as Deputy to Plymouth in 1669. In May, 1669, he was chosen one of a committee to meet a committee from the town of Swansea, to settle a controversy about boundaries. In November, 1663, one Goodman Walker, was appointed one of the committee to buy, or build a parsonage for the ministry, and it is generally supposed that Goodman was Philip, as there is no trace of any other Walkers in Rehoboth, at that time.

In 1675 commenced what to the little colony was a reign of terror, the Indian war, known as King Philip's war, and the town was obliged to sustain this war against Philip. Many of those who served as private soldiers advanced money, and a list is preserved showing the amount furnished by each individual. Here again the magnanimity of Philip Walker asserted itself, and his contribution, amounting to £26, was only exceeded by two others, and was probably double the amount furnished by the seventy-seven remaining residents of the town. While his brother James of Taunton, was distinguished as a member of the council of war, for Plymouth colony, Philip, in Rehoboth, was foremost in furnishing the sinews of war. Rehoboth at that time was an isolated plantation, and especially exposed to the incursions of the savages. The war closed by the fall of King Philip in 1676. Philip Walker, it is said, was in that gallant fight with the people of Rehoboth, when Philip was beaten. It was during this war that the erection of the old homestead was begun, but it remained in an unfinished state for some time afterwards. The exact date of its completion is not known, but it is thought to be between 1676 and 1678. At any rate, Philip was living there in 1679, and died in that year, in the prime of life.

His position and services, are ample proof of the superior excellence of his character, and usefulness, and his death was a sad blow to the struggling little colony, which at that time numbered less than one hundred. His achievements, though few in number, were highly honorable, and there is not a single spot on his escutcheon. He was trusted with the most responsible offices in the church, except that of minister. On August 21, 1679, the inhabitants of the little colony gathered in the little church, to attend the funeral service, in honor of the departed deacon. His remains were interred in the old town burying ground, in what is now the village of Rumford. To-day there is a handsome monument which designates the grave of this early settler.



During all these years the house has remained in the possession of the descendants of Philip Walker, passing from father to the oldest son, until the death of Timothy Walker, in 1812, when it became the joint property of five daughters. The eldest of these girls was but eighteen, and having no money, nothing but the old homestead and lands, she was compelled to labor hard for the support of her younger sisters, and to keep the property together. Two of the sisters married two brothers, Edward and Henry H. Dexter, and resided on the farm; the others married and went away.

The present owners are Christopher Dexter, and Miss Abbie Dexter, cousins, and descendants of Philip Walker, on their mother's side. The care of the farm is in the hands of Mr. Joseph Peck.

#### PHILIP WALKER.

Philip Walker had ten children, among whom was a second son, PHILIP WALKER. He was born in March, 1661, united with the church in 1697. He married Mary, daughter of Richard Bowen, September, 1689, who died May 22, 1694. He married, second, Sarah ———, who died February 6, 1739, in her sixty-eighth year. He died February 17, 1739, aged seventy-eight years. He was buried in the ancient burying ground, where his father was buried before him, in Seekonk.

The epitaph upon his gravestone,

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord,”

is the sufficient indication that in character, and Christian worth, he was the worthy son, of his honored sire. The inventory of his estate is given at £1,750:

Of the children of Philip Walker, of the second generation, DANIEL WALKER was the ninth. He was born October 10, 1706, married Mary, daughter of Jasiel Perry, at Seekonk, January 1, 1730. They were both members of the church in Rehoboth. Some time after the year 1750 he removed, with his family, to Coventry, Rhode Island. He was a soldier in the French and

Indian war, and was at Quebec at the capture of that city in 1759. It was his to be a witness of, and a participator in, that final act in the great drama of the eighteenth century, in which the lillies of France faded from the continent, and gave place to the domination of the Saxon race. Many soldiers from the New England colonies, as they returned from that last expedition, attracted by the appearance of the country, as they traveled along the newly cut military road, which followed the valley of the Otter Creek, decided to make their homes in the hitherto unpeopled territory, to the east of Lake Champlain. The settlement of the country was slow, and it was not until nine years later that, in 1768, Daniel Walker gave up his rugged Rhode Island farm, and removed with his family to Clarendon, then in the "New Hampshire Grants." He was sixty-two years of age at the time of his settlement in Clarendon. He died there, but of the date of his decease, no record has been found. His wife died in Rutland, Vermont, at about the commencement of the Revolutionary War, in 1775 or '76. They had twelve children.

#### GIDEON WALKER

was the sixth son of Daniel Walker. He was born in Attleboro', Massachusetts, November 20, 1738, and married RACHEL, daughter of Benjamin Foster, of Attleboro', in 1764. He settled first in Coventry, Rhode Island, to which place he removed from Attleboro' soon after his marriage. In 1768 he removed to Clarendon, and four years later, from there to Rutland, Vermont. After a residence of twelve years in Rutland, he removed to Whiting, Vermont, in 1784. He served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The nature and extent of this military service, appears from the following Certificate:

STATE OF VERMONT,  
 ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, }  
 BURLINGTON, DEC. 19, 1894.

I hereby certify that the following is a correct transcript from the records in this office, regarding soldiers who served in the Revolutionary War:

“An account of service done in Col. James Mead's Regiment of Militia, and Capt. Claghorn's Co. in scouting after Tories, at sundry times, and also guarding in time of trial, such as were taken to be enemies of America, commencing May 6, 1777, each man victualled himself, GIDEON WALKER is allowed 3 days' service. Also from a Pay Roll of Capt. John Smith's Co. in Col. Gideon Warren's Regiment of Militia.”\*

“In the service of this, and the United States, commencing Nov. 6, 1778, ending Nov. 13, we find that GIDEON WALKER served as a Private 7 days and received £0. 11s. 10.”

And from “A Pay Roll for a Co. of Militia, belonging to Rutland, under the command of Ensign Isaac Cushman, on an Expedition to Ticonderoga, in March, 1780, at the invasion of Skeensborough Fort, it appears that GIDEON WALKER served as a Private 4 days and received £0. 17s.”

And from “A Pay Roll of Capt. Samuel Williams' Co. of Militia, in Col. Ebenezer Allen's Regt. for going on several alarms, in October and November, 1780,” I find that GIDEON WALKER served as an ENSIGN 30 days, and received £6.

And from “A Pay Roll of Capt. Samuel Williams' Co. of Militia, in Col. Thomas Lee's Regt., commenced

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\* At this time a large British force scoured the country, as far south as Ticonderoga.



the 21st of October, ending the 2d of November following, 1781," it appears that GIDEON WALKER served as an ENSIGN 13 days, and received £3. 3s. 3d.

T. S. PECK, Adjt. and Insp. Gen'l.

As the history of those colonial days abundantly shows that, in Vermont, the military service required was not continuous, the service rendered by Gideon Walker was such as was common, during the era of the War of the Revolution. Upon the receipt of a call for forces, to resist anticipated invasion, as the armies of England swept up and down Lake Champlain, upon the western border, or to meet and resist savage Indian foes, in their forays from Canada, on the north, the hardy yeomen of Vermont, true "Minutemen," were wont to respond with alacrity, and when duty was done, and the danger had passed; to return to their homes, and await with heroic soul, the exigencies of the future. They were not soldiers by profession; they drew scanty pay, as the pay-rolls show, and only for the days of service actually rendered. They were, in the true sense, Citizen soldiers.

Such a soldier was ENSIGN GIDEON WALKER. He was also appointed a member of the Committee of Safety of Vermont, by the Windsor Convention, July, 1777.

On the 6th of July of that year General Burgoyne with an army of about 8,000 men, largely made up of well drilled troops from the Old World, encamped before Ticonderoga. So largely was General St. Clair, in command of that fortress, outnumbered by the invading foe, that the position became untenable, was abandoned without a battle, and a hasty retreat was made by the Americans across Lake Champlain, through Vermont to the southward.

This retreat leaving the scattered settlements of Vermont utterly defenceless, carried dismay throughout the frontier towns of the New Hampshire Grants, and large numbers of the settlers were sent southward, to remain until the impending danger should be passed. Alarm and confusion everywhere prevailed.

Gideon Walker started his wife, with four children, on horseback, for Cheshire, Massachusetts, where they found a refuge with a cousin, Lewis Walker. The eldest of these children was Jesse, a lad ten years of age; the others were Rachel, aged eight years; Levi, five years, and Amos two years respectively. With these four children, the heroic woman, RACHEL WALKER, wended her way alone, over the mountains to a place of safety, while her husband, a ready "Minuteman," with the quickly summoned forces of Warner, joined in the pursuit of the enemy, on his way to Bennington.

We may best judge of the true, patriotic, and heroic character of the inhabitants of the "New Hampshire Grants," of that day, when we recall the fact that they were subject to the neglect of Congress, in the recognition and maintenance of their rights, as against the unjust claims of New York, and to both the blandishments, and the fearful threats of Burgoyne, as he opened his campaign before Ticonderoga. The proclamation of that redoubtable British commander, issued July 4, 1777, at his camp near Ticonderoga, is of so unique a character, and so illustrative of the nature of the conflict then waging, that it properly finds a place in this story of the Revolutionary era:



## A PROCLAMATION

BY JOHN BURGOYNE, ESQ., LIEUTENANT GENERAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S ARMIES IN AMERICA, COLONEL OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT OF LIGHT DRAGOONS, GOVERNOR OF FORT WILLIAM IN NORTH BRITAIN, ONE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMONS OF GREAT BRITAIN IN PARLIAMENT, AND COMMANDING AN ARMY AND FLEET EMPLOYED ON AN EXPEDITION FROM CANADA.

"July 4, 1777. The forces entrusted to my command are designed to act in concert, and upon common principle, with the numerous armies and fleets, which already display, in every quarter of America, the power, the justice, and, when properly sought, the mercy of the King.

"The cause, in which the British arms are thus exerted, applies to the most affecting interests of the human heart; and the military servants of the crown, at first called forth, for the sole purpose of restoring the rights of the constitution, now combine with love of their country, and duty to their Sovereign, the other extensive incitements, which spring from a due sense of the general privileges of mankind. To the eyes and ears of the temperate part of the public, and to the breasts of suffering thousands in the provinces, be the melancholy appeal, whether the present unnatural rebellion, has not been made a foundation for the completest system of tyranny, that ever God, in his displeasure, suffered for a time to be exercised, over a forward and stubborn generation.

"Arbitrary imprisonment, confiscation of property, persecution and torture, unprecedented in the inquisitions of the Romish church, are among the palpable enormities that verify the affirmative. These are inflicted, by assemblies and committees, who dare to profess themselves friends to liberty, upon the most quiet subjects, without distinction of age or sex, for the sole crime, often for the sole suspicion, of having adhered in principle, to the government under which they were born, and to which, by every tie, divine and human, they owe allegiance. \* \* \* Animated by these considerations, at the head of troops in the full powers of health, discipline and valor, determined to strike where necessary, and anxious to spare where possible, I by these presents, invite and exhort all, in all places where the progress of this army may point, and by the blessing of God I will extend it far, to maintain such a conduct, as may justify me, in protecting their lands, habitations and families. The intention of this ad-

dress is to hold forth security, not depredation to the country. To those whom spirit and principle may induce to partake of the glorious task, of redeeming their countrymen from dungeons, and re-establishing the blessings of legal government, I offer encouragement and employment; and upon the first intelligence of their associations, I will find means to assist their undertakings. The domestic, the industrious, the infirm, and even the timid inhabitants, I am desirous to protect, provided they remain quietly at their houses; that they do not suffer their cattle to be removed, nor their corn, or forage, to be secreted or destroyed; that they do not break up their bridges or roads; nor by any other act, directly or indirectly, endeavor to obstruct the operations of the King's troops, or supply, or assist those of the enemy. Every species of provision brought into my camp, will be paid for, at an equitable rate, in solid coin. In consciousness of Christianity, my royal master's clemency, and the honor of soldiership, I have dwelt upon this invitation, and wished for more persuasive terms to give it expression: and let not the people be led to disregard it, by considering their distance from the immediate situation of my camp.

"I have but to give stretch to the Indian forces, under my direction, and they amount to thousands, to overtake the hardened enemies of Great Britain, and America. I consider them the same, wherever they may lurk. If notwithstanding these endeavors, and sincere inclinations to effect them, the phrenzy of hostility should remain, I trust I shall stand acquitted, in the eyes of God and men, in denouncing, and executing the vengeance of the state, against the wilful outcasts. The messengers of justice and of wrath, await them in the field; and devastation, famine, and every concomitant horror, that a reluctant, but indispensable prosecution of military duty must occasion, will bar the way to their return. By order of his excellency, the Lieutenant General,

ROBT. KINGSTON, Secretary.

J. BURGOYNE."

With all the equipments of his splendid army, and all the prestige of membership in the House of Commons, he had entered upon the campaign planned by the British ministry at Westminster, with the proud mien of a conqueror, whose laurels were already won. But he knew little of the valiant men of the Green Mountains, and their allies from every New England



hamlet, when he thought to purchase their submission with promises of protection, or to awe them by threats of vengeance from his Indian forces, of which he boasted, as amounting to thousands. They could not be corrupted by the "solid coin" of the Briton, nor awed by the relentless tomahawk of the Indian. They were at once patriotic, brave, and enduring, and under leaders who knew no fear; among whom were JOHN STARK, and EBENEZER LEARNED, fighters who never quailed, in the mid October days of the next golden autumn, for they saw the coming glory of Independence. The proud Briton suffered an ignoble defeat, and surrendered his sword and his army, to American valor, on the historic field of Saratoga.

Entering into the inheritance of Freedom, which was virtually secured by that great victory, over the best equipped army that had ever left the shores of England, we cannot overestimate the debt of gratitude we owe, to those sturdy and heroic men, who turned the tide of a ruthless invasion, and humbled the pride of the invader. "They builded better than they knew." The late lamented George William Curtis, in one of the last articles which he ever wrote, paid to them this beautiful tribute: "It is curious to note how little care was taken by the actors in the War of the Revolution, to preserve its records or its relics. There was little thought of making history, among the men of the Revolution. They sprang from a resolute and silent stock, and very few of them probably comprehended the historic character of their movement, or forecast the future interest of every incident of the struggle, and every memorial of it that should survive."

The chronicler of those days preserved his facts and conclusions, not, as is now done, by publication in the

public newspapers, for during the Revolution there was no newspaper published in Vermont. But the lives and deeds of the noble men, and women, who in the midst of the conflict of contending forces, such as those which confronted the early settlers of Vermont, cannot be forgotten. They left their impress upon their descendants, now scattered far and wide, from the Atlantic shores, to the Pacific sea. It has been truly said of Gideon and Rachel Walker, that "they both made great sacrifices, pecuniary and personal, for their country's independence. He had great force of character, and large power of endurance. She possessed indomitable energy, and firmness, with superior mental endowments." Both were members of the Baptist church. They had foundations of faith, and action, which were as solid, and enduring, as the Word of God.

#### WHITING, VERMONT.

The town of Whiting was chartered by Governor Benning Wentworth, of New Hampshire, August 6, 1763, and its settlement commenced in the same year. ELIHU MARSHALL settled and built a house there, in 1774. The inhabitants were compelled to abandon the place, during the Revolutionary War, but soon after its close they began to return, and in 1783 there were twenty families in the town. In the spring of 1783, Gideon Walker came from Rutland, and purchased of Elihu Marshall, the improvements which he had made, in 1774. He was accompanied by his eldest son, Jesse, then a lad about seventeen years of age.

They sowed grain, cut hay, and prepared for the removal of the family. Jesse used to narrate to his children, the hardships of those days; how for a period of



three weeks, he and his father, subsisted entirely upon potatoes and turnips, seasoned with a little salt, and worked hard all the time, in rebuilding the old, abandoned, Marshall house, built of logs, to make it ready for the reception of the family. April 13, 1784, Gideon Walker was chosen Selectman. March 14, 1785, the town meeting was held at his house, and he was chosen Moderator. At the town meeting held March 20, 1786, it was "voted to build a meeting house, twenty feet square, to be completed by the 20th of May next." Thus as the rude alarum of war had subsided, and given place to the welcome vocations of white-winged peace, the settlers of the new town, in the wilderness, without protracted delay, organized both their civil, and religious institutions. The English idea of local self-government, had the free play of individual energy. One of their first needs was a place for the worship of God. They were laying foundations, upon which rested the pillars of the future state, as firm and solid, as the granite of her Green Mountains.

The location chosen by Gideon Walker, as the future home for himself, and six sons, in Whiting, was a place of attractive scenic beauty, and rich in the promise of its fertile soil. From its higher elevation the eye, looking eastward, fell upon the long high range of the Green Mountains, twenty miles away, and to the north, and the south, for forty miles, the beautiful valley of the Otter Creek was spread out, in magnificent panorama. To the west, the Adirondacks lifted high their serried peaks, just beyond the placid waters of Lake Champlain. Here was the destined home of Gideon Walker, where with intelligent foresight, and a spirit of enterprise that knew no abatement while he lived, he secured a landed estate of 1,200

acres, and at his decease, left to each of his six sons a farm of 200 acres, in one of the finest farming sections of the state.

To show the prices of land, at that early day, an abstract of deeds of several purchases, is appended: January 1, 1784, Samuel Beach, to Gideon Walker, 600 acres, consideration £432; September 21, 1786, Samuel Beach, to Gideon Walker, 281 acres, consideration £400; February 10, 1791, Aaron Beach, to Gideon Walker, 105 acres, consideration £190; April 29, 1791, Abijah Case, to Gideon Walker, 100 acres, consideration £76 10s.; November 9, 1791, Samuel Beach, to Gideon Walker, 119 acres. After nine years' residence in Whiting, his life's work was fully accomplished. In the ancient burying ground, near the meeting house, in the little hamlet of Whiting, a double grave-stone marks the place of burial of GIDEON, and RACHEL WALKER. He died November 2, 1793, in the fifty-fifth year of his age; Rachel Walker died March 31, 1815, in the sixty-eighth year of her age. The simple epitaph is this:

“Their virtues will survive this marble monument,  
which is humbly inscribed to their memory.”

#### JESSE WALKER.

JESSE WALKER was the eldest son of Gideon, and Rachel Walker. He was born in Coventry, Rhode Island, July y<sup>e</sup> 21, 1767. As he was ten years of age, at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, he grew up to manhood, in the troublous times which followed, and in the hardships of which, he bore his full share. From the ancient records of the town of Whiting is copied the following

## MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE:

“This certifies that Jesse Walker, of Whiting, and Prudence Sawyer, of Leicester, were lawfully joined in marriage on the 14th day of March, A. D., 1793, by  
BENJAMIN WHITMAN, Justice of the Peace.”

Thus the two families of Thomas Sawyer, and Gideon Walker, of revolutionary fame, became united. Prudence, daughter of Thomas Sawyer, was born in Templeton, Massachusetts, January 14, 1767.

In the second year preceding his marriage, in November, 1791, Mr. Jesse Walker had purchased from his father, Gideon Walker, one hundred acres of land, for the consideration of £200, and erected thereon a substantial log house, on the spot where he made his home, for the remainder of his life. There he wrought, in industrious toil, and filled the measure of a useful existence. In the year 1815, as prosperity attended his manly work, and his means and family increased, he erected a new, two story, frame house, thirty by forty feet in size, which now, in 1895, after the lapse of eighty years, still stands in the best of repair—the home of Mr. Jay Worcester, of Whiting. There is no finer location in the State of Vermont. At fifty two years of age, in a measure broken by the hardships which began in his boyhood, and which impaired to some degree, a naturally strong constitution, he practically gave up the care of his farm, which by increase from his father's estate, now embraced some two hundred acres, and conveyed his property, in trust for his family, to his eldest son, Whitfield Walker. Three years later, and a few days before his death, by a supplementary deed, he completed the disposition of his property.

He had at that time, five children under age, ranging from the ages of six to eighteen years, besides three who



had attained their majority. The ancient deed was a curious instrument. It provided that in consideration of the promises, and the covenants of the said Whitfield, he was "entitled to the reasonable service of all the aforesaid children of Jesse Walker, then under age, and provide them with food and clothing, decent and comfortable apparel, wholesome food, and a good chance of schooling for a common education." Upon his gravestone, in Whiting, is this inscription:

This stone is inscribed to the memory of  
MR. JESSE WALKER,  
Who died Feby. 17, 1822, in the  
55th year of his age.

"Dear is the memory of virtue."

And beside it, is another stone, with this inscription:

PRUDENCE,  
WIFE OF JESSE WALKER,  
DIED  
August 14, 1856,  
Aged 89 years.

"Death is not an endless sleep."

The writer remembers well, his venerable grandmother, the last twenty years of her life. She was totally blind during all that period, but her mental faculties continued unimpaired. She was of medium stature, in weight not far from a hundred and fifty pounds, and in her younger days, she must have been of robust constitution, Her features were full and round, with broad forehead, and of marked intellectuality. She possessed strong reasoning powers, and was gifted with a remarkable memory. Though but ten years of age, at the outbreak

of the Revolutionary War, she used, up to the close of her long life, to recall many of the incidents of that war, in which her father, Capt. Thomas Sawyer, was so conspicuous an actor. Her active life was one of unselfish devotion to her family and friends, and in her long years of darkness, and widowhood, she awaited with patient cheerfulness, the summons of her Lord, to the life immortal.

#### SAWYER WALKER.

SAWYER WALKER was the second son, of Jesse Walker, and Prudence Sawyer, Walker. He was born in Whiting, Vermont, July 15, 1799. He was married in Leicester, Vermont, May 16, 1824, to MALINDA GILE, youngest daughter of Moses, and Elizabeth Gilkey, Gile. She was born in Mount Holly, Vermont, April 29, 1799. Shortly before his marriage, he purchased of his brother, Whitfield, an undivided half of the old home farm, of his father, Jesse Walker. This partnership continued for a period of ten years. In May, 1828, the firm purchased what was known as the "Seelye Farm," 215 acres, situated one mile east from Whiting village, for \$2,250. To this place Sawyer Walker removed, early in the year 1829, and with the interim of one year, between September 10, 1830, and September 15, 1831, he continued to reside there, until February 1, 1836.

In January, 1833, the partnership of Whitfield and Sawyer Walker was dissolved, Whitfield retaining the old homestead, and Sawyer the "Seelye Farm." In December, 1835, he sold this farm, and on the 1st of February, 1836, he removed to Fairfax, Franklin County, Vermont, where he purchased a farm of 500 acres, known, at that early day, as the "Gale Farm," located three miles north of Fairfax village, on the road leading to Saint Albans.

This was one of the largest farms in the county. Through it from north to south, ran Beaver Brook, a small stream, famous for its fine trout fishing, and the broad intervale land upon either side, forming one of the finest of meadows, embracing more than one hundred and fifty acres. The upland for tillage, was arable and productive soil. There Mr. Walker, with a flock of three or four hundred sheep and a herd of from fifty to a hundred head of cattle, horses, and other stock, devoted himself to the business of New England farm life. In 1844 he erected a new, two story, brick house, then one of the best farm houses in the town, and which now, after the lapse of fifty years, with the fine surroundings of grand old trees of his early planting, is one of the most attractive homesteads in Fairfax.

During his residence in Whiting, six children were born to Sawyer, and Malinda Gile, Walker:

MARION B. WALKER, born September 16, 1825; married Thomas A. Sayles, October 21, 1852.

DARWIN GILE WALKER, born December 17, 1826; died, unmarried, May 18, 1887, and was buried in Whiting, Vermont.

EDWIN SAWYER WALKER, born August 11, 1828; married August 11, 1858, Emily M. Hunt, of Fairfax, Vermont, who died August 27, 1868, in Springfield, Illinois; married December 27, 1870, Harriet J. Weeks, of Saint Albans, Vermont.

WHITING WALKER, born February 27, 1831, died October 6, 1831, and was buried in Whiting.

ALMIRA WALKER, born October 23, 1832, and died, unmarried, in Janesville, Wisconsin, March 14, 1865,

LUCY H. WALKER, born January 4, 1835, married Rev. Shadrach Washington July 14, 1859.



During his residence in Fairfax, two children were born.

FANNY MALINDA WALKER, born August 14, 1837.

ALBERT HENRY WALKER, born November 25, 1844, married Esther J. Sayles, September 16, 1874.

In Fairfax, Mr. Walker soon took rank, with the foremost citizens. He was held in the highest esteem, for his intelligence, his sterling honesty, and his public spirit. He was in politics, an ardent Whig, and was honored with several town offices—Lister, Selectman, and Justice of Peace. In 1855 he sold his farm in Fairfax, and removed to Green Lake County, Wisconsin, where, as during his previous life, he was engaged in farming.

On April 3, 1863, his wife, Malinda Gile Walker, died in St. Marie, aged sixty-four years, and was buried in Ripon, Wisconsin. As in Vermont, Mr. Walker, was, in his Wisconsin home, ranked among the best of citizens. He was a Justice of Peace at the time of his death. He died September 27, 1879, having just completed his eightieth year. In intellectual culture, he was, by reading and study, well advanced, for one who enjoyed such meagre opportunities for education, as the common schools of Vermont afforded, in his time. Soon after attaining his majority, he taught common schools, during several winters, in Vermont, and in New York. As illustrating somewhat, the educational facilities of that day, and the range of studies pursued, the following is an interesting souvenir.

MORIAH, NEW YORK, *December 4, 1822.*

*Cousin John:*—I take the liberty to celebrate the Governor's Sunday in writing to you, and although I am placed at some distance from you, yet you are not out of my mind. It frequently carries my thoughts to Whiting, and in a moment seems to transfer me there; but soon, very soon, I am not in your society, nor that of my friends. Friends, did I say? I am not without them in this part of the world, but still they are not so familiar, as those

with whom I have been long acquainted. Yet they are people of good habits, and moral character, and in good circumstances, as to living. Many of them are well informed. I have a good chance to read the newspapers, which come weekly within a few rods of the school house. As it respects my school, it as yet is very agreeable, which contains between forty and fifty scholars, who are studying the various branches, which are taught in common schools. Two only in English grammar, eight in the study of geography, and sixteen or seventeen writing, and arithmetic, none however very forward, but still are making good progress in the present tense. I hope I shall be able to give good satisfaction through the school, which I believe I have hitherto done. You must not neglect writing frequently, such things as will be interesting to me, and what you are pursuing for a livelihood. And this I enjoin on you, not to neglect the pursuit of literary knowledge, now in your youthful days, when you have opportunity; for the days are fast approaching, when there will be various things to attract your attention, which at present are free from your mind. And besides this, every day has its duties, and if you learn one thing to-day, you will not load to-morrow, with what you ought to have learned to-day. We cannot bring time back that is past and gone; it becomes us to improve the present; for the most important purposes are not deferred to an uncertain future—things that may without inconvenience to ourselves, be accomplished in the present time. You must answer this letter the first opportunity, in a more elegant style, and particularly about things that are taking place in Whiting. Remember me to all inquiring friends, and particularly to cousin Mark, and mother.

I am your affectionate cousin,

SAWYER WALKER."

COUSIN JOHN B. WALKER.

The above is a copy of a letter which was found, among other papers, in an old chest, in Whiting, Vermont, in 1891. It had lain unseen and undisturbed, for nearly seventy years, and upon being brought to light, it is of interest now, as showing the writer's style of expression, his aspirations, his ambition, his moral fibre, and giving an insight into the conditions of life, along the shores of Lake Champlain, in the early days of

the century. Fifty-six years subsequent to the date of that letter, when the writer had, through the long years of a not uneventful life, reached the full age of four score years, he wrote another letter to his son, who with filial reverence for the character of a father, so worthy of affection and honor, places upon these pages, extracts which tell in brief, the story of the good man's life:

“Whatever good you have learned, practice and teach to your children. For myself I have nothing to boast of, but during a long life, it has been my aim to teach my children good precepts, truthfulness and honesty, good language, temperance and sobriety, and to enforce them by a good example. If, after I shall have passed away, my name is mentioned by my posterity, I hope it will be with veneration, and respect. I think much about leaving this world and all my friends, and all things here below, and going home to my Heavenly Father, and to meet those who have gone before me. What that future state may be, no one is permitted to know, while here in the flesh. But this we do know, that in keeping the commandments of God, there is great reward. ‘What does the Lord thy God require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and walk humbly before Him?’ If I should be permitted to live a few years longer, I hope to be useful, and a comfort to my friends. But I do not expect ever to be any better prepared to die, than I now am. I put my trust in JESUS CHRIST, ‘who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.’ My heart is daily drawn out in thankfulness to my Heavenly Father, for preserving my life and faculties, unimpaired, to such an age; and while I live, I hope to correspond with, and be a comfort to my children.”



Four months after penning this letter, he celebrated his eightieth birthday. This occasion was so fraught with interest, and so pleasant in its memories, that the report of it, by one of the participants, in a communication to the *Illinois State Journal*, is worthy of preservation in these pages:

ANNIVERSARY—A BIRTHDAY PICNIC AT GREEN LAKE, WISCONSIN.

On Tuesday, July 15, 1879, Governor M. Brayman, of Idaho, whose family resides at this beautiful summer resort, Green Lake, being at home on a brief leave of absence from the distant territory, made a picnic party, in celebration of the thirtieth birthday of his daughter, Mrs. Mary Gowdy, and of the eightieth birthday of his neighbor and friend, Sawyer Walker, the father of Rev. Edwin S. Walker. The occasion was one of peculiar interest, and enjoyment to the large party assembled. Among them were Rev. Mr. Crosby and wife, of Ripon, Wisconsin; Rev. Mr. Kutchen, of Green Lake; Mrs. L. H. Washington, of Keokuk, Iowa, with two of her children; Mrs. E. S. Walker, and two sons, Robert and John, and Miss Helen M. Weeks, of Springfield, Illinois; Mrs. W. H. Bailhache and children, together with the other members of Governor Brayman's immediate family. An address of welcome was made by the Governor, and poems were read by Mrs. Washington, who is a daughter of the venerable Sawyer Walker, and by Mrs. Crosby, of Ripon. We have been furnished with Governor Brayman's welcoming address, and with Mrs. Crosby's poem, which we give in full.

GOVERNOR BRAYMAN'S ADDRESS.

*My Neighbors and Friends:*—It is very kind of you to come to Gray Rock, that we may share the pleasures of the day, and join you, in doing honor to those we love. The occasion is one which inspires gratitude to God, and brings us into endearing sympathy with each other. After a long absence, I am glad to find you in health, and to know, that though cares have fallen upon you, and changes have come with added years, you have accepted them cheerfully, and borne them well.

In behalf of my family, and on my own part, I welcome you to our home. For the hour, we are one family. Every door and heart is open to you; the old oaks dissolve the sunlight into grateful shade for your comfort, and the mirrored lake before us, smiles upon the offering you bring.

This is a birthday festival—a common event enough, but one which, in childhood, seems to come slowly, and to hasten its return as we go down, towards the setting sun. We have with us one whom all delight to honor—our venerable friend, Sawyer Walker, who to-day attains his eightieth year—who, after a life of usefulness, crowned with the love, and reverence of his children, the confidence of his neighbors, and the respect of all who know him, has passed the allotted limit of life, and who, with a still vigorous mind, strong constitution, and cheerful spirit, gives promise of yet many useful, and happy years. Following him, half a century behind in the race of life, is a beloved member of my own family—one of those whom God has given me for a blessing, who, like him, finds another year of the future gone to join the past.

And here we have them—venerable age, with its cheerful retrospection—middle life, yet hopeful; and down there on the lawn, tossing pebbles in the sleeping water, are the little children. At a glance of the mind, we see the frost upon the mountain top, the blooming verdure upon its side, and the sweet flowers that are unfolding in the valley below.

May it be long before we forget each other, or the happy occasion of our meeting here. The approving smile of a kind, Heavenly Father surely is upon this hour and scene, and we may trust that His blessing will attend, and His hand guide us, with gentle care wherever we may go. In a few days I expect to leave you, and this happy home, for a distant field of duty, “not knowing the things that shall befall me there;” but the remembrance of this scene, and of your kind words, will remain with me, the solace of my lonely hours, and a support in every trial. We cannot hope to meet again, as we are now. Some will pass “over the river;” the changing tides of life will bear us away, but *whither*, it is wise that none of us can tell. It is well that we believe, and cheering that we may hope—that we shall meet and greet, by and by, in a happier home than this; in fairer fields, and beneath brighter skies, where flowers ever bloom, and living waters flow. Again, welcome! May loving intercourse crown the hour, and fragrant remembrances remain with you always.

## BIRTH-DAY BELLS.

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BY MRS. G. F. CROSBY.

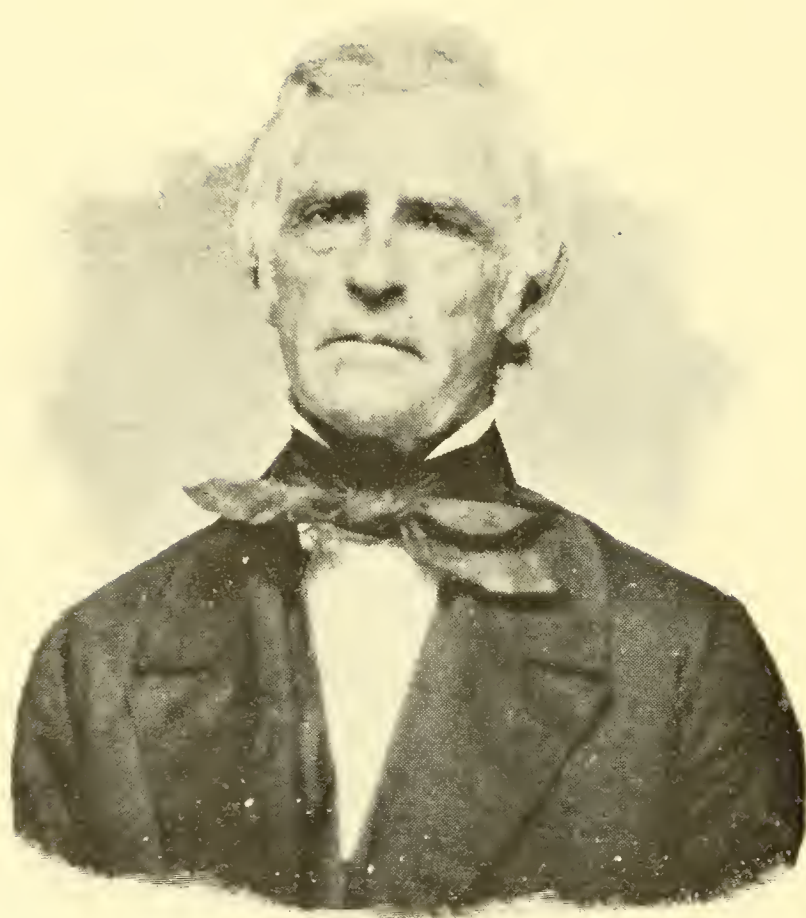
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Have you read among the stories  
That the ancients loved to tell,  
That each joy, or hope, or longing  
Has, quite near, its answering bell?  
How in all the air around us,  
In the sky above our head,  
Bells are held by hands angelic,  
Held and swung, the legend said?  
Always ringing minor music  
When Hope trails her banner by;  
Welling forth their major cadence  
When she lifts her pennon high?  
If their throats are sometimes voiceless,  
'Tis because our dull ears strain  
More to catch the earthly clangor,  
Than this angel-rung refrain.  
Listen! What's the tale they're telling  
To us here among the trees?  
Joyful, happy sounds are rising,  
Swelling, dying with the breeze.  
They are sighing now of birth-days;  
One? yes, two, the bells all say,  
Found their life-boats, and might anchor  
In July, this fifteenth day.  
Long we listen for the rhythm,  
That would give their years a date;  
Ten times three, they ring for Mary,  
For friend Walker, ten times eight.  
Years must pass before we hear them  
Ringing tens for each dear friend,  
Years through which, we trust, in chiming,  
Faith and Hope, they'll always blend.  
If around this lake so charming,  
Echoes there shall sometimes be,  
We shall know their bells are ringing,  
Close beside the Crystal Sea.

GREEN LAKE, WIS., July 15, 1879.







*Levy Wether*

Taken at age of 58 years.

On the 27th of September following this anniversary, SAWYER WALKER, at high noon, of the beautiful autumn day, went home to rest with God. Stricken with paralysis, which partially deprived him of the power of speech, he had lingered for two or three weeks, and then after four or five days of semi-consciousness, with no signs of pain or suffering, the end came, as calmly as the falling asleep of a child, tired with his play, and this life lapsed into the life immortal.

Fifteen years later, his friend General Brayman, after having reached the age of eighty-two years, and after a similar transition, fell asleep, "until the day breaks and the shadows flee away."

Not far separated, they lie in the beautiful cemetery in Ripon, Wisconsin, each beside the companion of his earthly pilgrimage, who had earlier gone to her rest with the immortals:

"In fairer fields, and beneath brighter skies,  
Where flowers ever bloom, and living waters flow."



## THE SAWYER FAMILY.

The earliest record of the SAWYER family in America, is connected with the settlement of Lancaster, Massachusetts, in 1643.

The territory surrounding was in subjection to Sholan, Sachem of a tribe of Indians known as the Nashaways, whose place of abode was Waushacum, now the town of Sterling.

In his occasional visits to Watertown, near Boston, for the purpose of trading, Sholan pointed out to Mr. Thomas King, who resided there, a place well suited to locate a plantation, and invited the English to come and settle near him. A tract of land, eight by ten miles in extent, was purchased of Sholan, the stipulation being made in the deed, that the English should not molest the Indians in their hunting grounds, or fishing and planting places. This deed was confirmed by the General Court in 1653.

The first permanent settlement was commenced in 1644, when six men from Watertown, took up their abode, and here made their home.\*

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\*"Within the bounds of New England there is no more attractive spot, than the site of the town of Lancaster. It lies thirty-five miles west from Boston, where in an alluvial valley, the beautiful Nashua, receives a large tributary stream, before it proceeds on its tranquil way to the Merrimac. The richness of the intervale soil, and the picturesque charm of the surrounding hills, crowned with primitive forests of walnut, chestnut, maple, and evergreens, invited the attention of one of the earliest companies, that looked for an inland home."

## THOMAS SAWYER

THOMAS SAWYER was one of these first settlers. Another was John Prescott, whose daughter, Marie Prescott, Thomas Sawyer married in 1648. There were nine families in the place in 1646, and but few additions were made to the number until 1653, when it was incorporated under the name of Lancaster. The next year, 1654, the names of twenty-five men, who were heads of families, were signed as "Townsmen," the full list giving the name of Thomas Sawyer, as the sixth in order. For the next twenty-one years the settlement increased and prospered, and friendly relations with the Indians were maintained. Soon after his marriage, Mr. Sawyer "set up a house near that of his father-in-law," Prescott, and followed the business of a blacksmith.

In August, 1675, all the horrors of Indian warfare broke upon the town of Lancaster. Under the lead of King Philip, of Mount Hope, an attack was made, when eight persons were killed. On the 10th of February, 1676, another attack was made by King Philip, with a force of 1500 allies, consisting of Wampanoags, Narragansetts, Nipmucks, and Nashaways. They invested the town, which consisted of fifty families, in five distinct bodies and places. They were met by the heroic resistance of the settlers, but it was not until they had burned every house but two, and killed over fifty people, and carried away captive twenty more, that the awful work of devastation ceased. Than this, there is no bloodier chapter in New England history. The town was then utterly abandoned for four years, after which time the survivors returned, and rebuilt their desolated homes, and reared anew their family altars.

The capture and death of King Philip, on August 12, 1676, just six months after the destruction of the town of Lancaster, closed the bloody drama, in which he was the chief actor, and for a time gave peace to the settlers. Thirteen years later, in 1689, King William's War, again sent the Indians on the war path. The Colonists were for the next eight years, subject to constant alarms. In September, 1697, another attack was made upon Lancaster, when Rev. John Whiting, the minister, and twenty of his people, were killed, gallantly fighting to the last. Soon after this came the peace of Ryswick, and for a time the settlers had rest.

Through all these vicissitudes, and conflicts of border life, from 1644 to 1697, a period of fifty-three years, THOMAS SAWYER was an active participant; and one of the few, of the earliest settlers of Lancaster, who survived to see the close of the 17th century. He died in Lancaster, September 12, 1706, at the age of 80 years.

#### THOMAS SAWYER.

THOMAS SAWYER, his son, was born in Lancaster, May 12, 1649. He was grown to manhood, at the time when the Indian wars began, and an active participant in all the continuous struggles of his time, incident to border life. He married early in life, SARAH ——— who died January 2, 1672, and in September, following, he married his second wife, HANNAH ———, of whose death no record has been found.

Animated by the same indomitable spirit which characterized his father, he was one of the foremost leaders. Five years only had elapsed after the peace of Ryswick, when in 1702, Queen Anne's War began, and



the struggle of the Colonists, with savage foes, was renewed. A party of Indians, from Canada, in October, 1705, entered the town of Lancaster.

Thomas Sawyer, with his son, Elias, were taken by surprise, and carried away captive to Montreal. His younger son, Thomas, then a lad of fourteen years of age, escaped through a back window of the house, and during his father's captivity, was the stay and support of the family. The Indian captors, hastening their journey, treated Mr. Sawyer with great cruelty on the way to Canada. Full of resources, it was not long, however, before he began to plan for an escape.

He reported to the French Governor, Vaudreuil, that there was on the river Chamblee, a fine site for mills, and that he would build a saw-mill for him, provided he would secure the release of his son, and himself, from their Indian captors. The Governor at once accepted the offer, as there was not at that time a saw-mill in all Canada, nor a millwright capable of building one. He accordingly applied to the Indians, for the release of the captives, and was successful in negotiating for the release of Elias, the son, but no sum he could name, could purchase the release of Thomas Sawyer.

In the quaint language of the annalist of the time, "Being distinguished for his bravery which had proved fatal to a number of their warriors, the Indians were determined him to immolate." They accordingly led forth their victim, and bound him to the stake, piled about with materials so arranged, as to effect a lingering death. Anticipating the fiendish pleasure, of seeing their captive writhing in tortures, amidst the rising flames, the savages rent the air with their demoniacal yells, when upon a sudden, a Friar appeared, and with great solemnity held

forth what he declared to be the key to the gates of purgatory, and threatened, that unless they should immediately release their prisoner, he would unlock those gates, and send them all headlong to Hell.

Where no ransom offered could avail, superstition, as is often the case, aroused a sense of fear in those savages, and wrought the deliverance of the captive, whom they immediately released, and delivered up to the Governor.

Mr. Sawyer at once set to work, and after a year's toil, built and completed the saw-mill, the first one ever erected in Canada, when he was set free, and returned to his home in Lancaster, where he was received as though risen from the dead. The son, Elias Sawyer, however, they detained a year longer, to instruct them in the art of sawing, and keeping the mill in order; at the end of which time, he was paid for his services, and returned to his home in Lancaster.

After the peace of the treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, no further incursions of savage enemies, checked the prosperity of the ancient settlement of Lancaster.

#### THOMAS SAWYER.

THOMAS SAWYER, of the third generation, was born in Lancaster, in 1691. He married BEATRICE POPE, who was born in England in 1691, and came with her father to America, in the year 1700. They lived in Lancaster, the part of the town which, in 1738, was incorporated as the town of Bolton. Tradition has left but meagre account of the vicissitudes which they encountered, in the alternating years of Indian warfare, and of peace.

There can be no doubt but they bore their full share of privation, and with heroic endeavor helped to lay the

foundations of our free institutions. As did Thomas Sawyer, of the second generation, it is supposed that Thomas of the third, reached old age, and died in Bolton.

#### THOMAS SAWYER.

He had a son, THOMAS SAWYER, of the fourth generation, born in Bolton, in 1741, who married PRUDENCE CARTER, who was also born in Bolton, in 1745. Her mother was Prudence Sawyer, a cousin of her husband's father. She died in Manchester, Ontario County, New York, in 1818. He was bred a millwright, as doubtless was his father before him, by his grandfather, after his return from captivity in Canada. He settled in Templeton, Mass., soon after his marriage.

This town was an original grant, to certain persons who did service in King Philip's War, or to their heirs, and was known by the name of Narragansett No. 6, until its incorporation, in 1762, when the name Templeton was given to it.

He removed from there to Winchendon, in 1771, where he was a Constable in 1772-1774.

The era of Indian, and French and Indian wars, had passed away, and a new era was about to open, affording a new theatre for resolute activity, and patriotic devotion, which would call forth the noblest endeavors of the Colonists. The tocsin of the American Revolution was sounded on the 19th of April, 1775, at Lexington, and again, when a few hours later, at Concord,

"The embattled farmers stood  
And fired the shot heard round the world."

Among the honored names, of those who earliest responded to their country's call, as the Revolutionary War Records, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts show, that of



"THOMAS SAWYER appears as Sergeant, on Lexington alarm, Roll of Capt. Abel Wilder's Company, Col. Ephraim Doolittle's Regiment, which marched on the alarm of April 19th, 1775, from Winchendon to Cambridge. Marched April 20th. Served 16 days."

His name also appears, with rank of Private, on Muster and Pay Roll, of Captain Abraham Foster's Company, Col. Samuel Bullard's Regiment, which marched August 18, 1777, to re-enforce the Northern Army.

Time of discharge, November 30, 1777.

Time of service three months, and twenty-four days."

Vol. 13, Page 179. Vol. 19, Page 37.

"COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, }  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, }  
BOSTON, JUNE 22, 1894.

I certify the foregoing to be true Abstracts, from the Record Index to the Revolutionary War Archives, deposited in this office.

WM. M. OLIN, Secretary."

The Northern Army, above referred to, was a body of troops from Massachusetts, and Connecticut, gathered about Lake Champlain, and southward, for the defense of the frontier, under command of General Schuyler.

At the beginning of the Revolution, the people of the New Hampshire Grants, were without any regular form of government. Such government as they had, was vested in Committees of Safety.

A Constitution was however adopted, in July, 1777, and the State of Vermont began its political existence. At that time Burgoyne, with 8000 troops, was pressing his way from Canada, up Lake Champlain, towards Ticonderoga. On the 8th of July, that stronghold had fallen,

and the army of Burgoyne was advancing along the western border of Vermont. On the 12th of July, St. Clair, after his retreat from Ticonderoga, had joined the forces of General Schuyler, at Fort Edward.

That was four days before the battle of Bennington. Two days after that battle, quickly responding to the call from the imperiled frontier, THOMAS SAWYER was with his Massachusetts regiment, on his way to re-enforce the Northern Army, then confronting the army of Burgoyne on the Hudson.

On the day of Burgoyne's surrender, October 17th, 1777, as the record shows, though not then formally discharged from service in the Massachusetts regiment, and off duty, he served temporarily as a volunteer, in a Vermont military company, six days, when he was discharged. This was a company raised by Captain Abraham Salisbury, in Clarendon, by the authority of the Committee of Safety, and the principal inhabitants of the towns of Wallingford, Clarendon, Rutland and Pittsford, on being alarmed by the enemy's coming to Pittsford, and taking some prisoners, and plundering some houses.

Capt. Salisbury's company went to Pittsford, October 17th, 1777, and went away October 23d, 1777.

As THOMAS SAWYER, soon after that, returned to Massachusetts, and was discharged from service in November following, he arranged at once, for the removal of his family to Clarendon, Vermont, and uniting his fortunes with the people of that Republic, became thenceforth, one of its foremost citizens. He at once took an active, and leading part, in the military service.

He was, by his neighbors, and the Council of Safety, chosen Captain, as there was at that time no organized government in Vermont, except the Council of Safety,

which consisted of the foremost men of different localities, appointed to manage the affairs of the State, until the government should take regular form, under the Constitution, which had been adopted in the month of July preceding. THOMAS CHITTENDEN was President of the Council, and in his military orders, he was officially known and recognized, as Captain General.

Upon the withdrawal of the remnant of Burgoyne's army from Ticonderoga, which had been left there when his main army proceeded southward, and its retreat to Canada, there came a period of comparative peace on the frontier. This time was improved by Captain Sawyer, in building for himself a block house, of solid oak logs, which was provided with strong oak shutters to the windows, for protection against any possible attack by the enemy. It was the place of common rendezvous, for families in the neighborhood, in time of alarm. He also erected a grist-mill, the first ever erected in Clarendon.

With the opening of the year, 1778, there were renewed evidences of unrest and danger, on account of threatened incursions of marauding parties of British, and Indians, from Canada. His first campaign was an expedition to Shelburn, on the northern frontier.

The following history of that campaign was written by Whitfield Walker, Esq., a grandson of Capt. Sawyer, in 1847, who received from his mother, Prudence Sawyer, the detailed statement of the facts herein set forth:

#### THE BATTLE OF SHELburn.

A man by the name of Parsons emigrated from the state of New Jersey to Shelburn, Vt., in 1777, and built a block house, for the security of his family, which was in an unfinished condition. That section of the state being infested by Tories and Indians, and being unprotected by any military force, he was made acquainted with an expected incursion of Tories and Indians from Canada. A



message was sent to Clarendon for assistance. Capt. Sawyer heard the call, and his action was prompt. He called his company together and beat up for followers. L. Barnum and fifteen others caught their Commander's spirit, and turned out at the tap of the drum. Capt. Sawyer had a wife and six children, the oldest of which was a son, twelve years of age, whose business it was to chop and draw the wood, and assist his mother in tending the grist mill. These he left, and took up the line of march, with seventeen volunteers on the 20th of January, 1778. Their pathway was a trackless forest, except by the Indian, wolf and panther. The season was inclement, and the snow deep. The march was tedious, and their suffering and privations intense; the last ten miles of their march the party came near perishing.

On their arrival at Mr. Parsons' block-house, the place of destination, a distance of sixty six miles, late in the evening, and nearly frozen, they found Parsons and family in a state of anxious solicitude for their safety, and that of a few other hardy pioneers. They were hospitably received, and shared with them a frugal meal of hominy, ground in a steel hand-mill, brought by Parsons from New Jersey. Glad were they to share his shelter, and to camp about his ample fire. Never did human beings while resting their weary limbs upon the hard floor, more fully realize the truthfulness of the poetic effusion in reference to the repose of sleep: "Tired nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep."

When morning came the volunteers set about repairing the defences, by putting the block-house in better repair. The doors and windows were insecure, and required to be barricaded. Operations were at once commenced, and they had nearly completed the defence, all except securing one window, when they found the block-house surrounded by Tories and Indians, the first notice of which was the discharge of a volley of musketry through the insecure window, by which three persons were killed, named Barnum, Woodward and Daniels, the latter two of whom were not of the party, but only came in for protection during the night.

The battle then commenced in good earnest. The guns of the assailed were pointed with deadly aim at the enemy. Numbers fell, reaping a rich reward for their temerity, till at length they became desperate, and set fire to the house in several places. What was to be done was the question, as there was no water at hand, and the flames were rapidly spreading. Capt. Sawyer ordered the contents of a barrel of beer to be used, and one of the number sallied out under a shower of bullets and fortunately extinguished

the fire. A second attempt was made to fire it, but our little band became in turn the assailants. The enemy were driven from the field carrying off their wounded, and as was supposed, a portion of their dead, leaving seven on the field, together with four prisoners taken.

At morning's early dawn they surveyed the battlefield. Pursuing the track of the enemy to Lake Champlain, about half a mile distant from the scene of action, tracing it by the bloody snow, which was deeply tinged, they passed down the banks of Bloody Brook, so called from the battle. They found in the lake, holes cut through the ice, the edges of which were bloody, and into which, it was evident, some of the slain Indians had been plunged.

Among the killed was an Indian Chief, with ear and nose jewels. These jewels, also a powder-horn, belt and bullet pouch, were trophies kept by the Captain as long as he lived, as mementoes of an illustrious deed, achieved by him and his followers, on the 12th of March, 1778.

Three days previous to the battle, a Tory, by the name of Philo, left the vicinity on skates for St. Johns, to give the British notice that a patrolling party were at Shelburn, and they projected the plan of their capture, and the extirpation of these devoted friends of liberty. The assailants came on skates, that the surprise might be complete, but the cowardly miscreant Philo did not return, but staid behind. They doubtless congratulated themselves, with certain prospects of a bloodless triumph, so far as they were concerned, and that the scalps of this band of heroes would entitle them to a liberal bounty, from the British government. But they learned to their sorrow, that the sons of liberty were awake, and ready to pour out their blood like water, in defense of their homes, and fireside altars.

From the preceding facts, it was believed by the victors, that the number killed far exceeded what were found on the field, but nothing certain was ever known. Capt. Sawyer, as a reward for the heroism of the soldier, who extinguished the flames of the burning block house with the contents of the beer barrel, presented him with his watch.

A letter sent to Capt. Ebenezer Allen at that time says:

"GENTLEMEN, By express this moment received the account of Capt. Sawyer's late signal victory over the enemy at Shelburn.

By order of the Council of Safety.

THOMAS CHANDLER, JR., Secretary."



In 1777 all Continental troops were withdrawn from the State, and the people were left to their own resources for protection.

In the spring of 1778, Rutland became the headquarters of the military forces of the State. A fort was built of unhewn hemlock logs, placed upright, five feet in the ground, and fifteen feet above ground. They were sharpened at the top, and stood slightly inclining outwards. It was elliptical in form, and enclosed eight acres, affording room for a garrison of two or three hundred men. There was within the fort a block-house, in size, thirty by forty feet, and two stories in height. It was called "Fort Ranger." In recognition of his capacity for important military service, Capt. Sawyer was placed in command of this fort, in the summer of 1778, which position he held for two years, rendering distinguished service, in the protection of the frontier.

The following copy of orders, dated "Arlington, May 14, 1779," will serve to show the kind of service which devolved upon him.

*"To Capt. Thomas Sawyer, Commander at Fort Ranger:*

The design and object of the garrison's being kept at your post, is to prevent the incursion of the enemy, on the Northern frontiers, and to annoy them, should they come within your reach. As there are two other posts, one at Castleton, and the other at Pittsford, dependent on yours, you are to take care that they are properly manned, and provided, proportionally to your strength at Fort Ranger.

You will keep out constant Scouts towards the Lake, so as to get the earliest intelligence, of the motion, and designs of the enemy.



You will keep the command of Fort Ranger, and the other forts depending, until otherwise ordered by me, or until some Continental officers shall take command.

You will post the earliest intelligence, of motion of the enemy, to me, and guard against surprise.

Given under my hand,

THOMAS CHITTENDEN, Capt. General."

The above orders show at once, the military sagacity of Thomas Chittenden, and the extent of the responsibility of Thomas Sawyer.

It will be seen that they look to a possible recognition, by Congress, of the political existence of Vermont, as a State possessing the inherent right of sovereignty, and the assumption of military responsibility, by the appointment of Continental officers, to the command of the forts. But, by its spirit of vacillation and delay, that recognition to which the people of Vermont were justly entitled, was for ten long years denied them.

In 1780-1, Rutland continued to be the headquarters of the state forces. The forts at Rutland, Pittsford and Castleton, were strengthened, and continually occupied by small garrisons of militia levies, and measures were taken to have the militia held in readiness, to turn out *en masse* when required. Two companies of Rangers were kept in constant service, for patrolling the frontiers, and keeping watch of the enemy.

#### COPY OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORD.

"Pay Roll of Capt. Thomas Sawyer's Company of Provincial troops, from the dates of their respective enlistments, until the time of their discharge, commencing May 1st, and ending November 30th, 1778, 7 months and 4 days."

“Pay Roll of Capt. Thomas Sawyer’s Company of Militia, raised for the defense of the Northern Frontiers, of the United States, 1779.

Entered service, May 4th, 1779—Discharged June 28th, 1779—I month and 23 days.”

“Pay Roll of Capt. Thomas Sawyer’s Company of Militia, raised for the defense of the Northern Frontiers, of the United States, June 29th, 1779.

Discharged August 20th, 1779, 1 month and 23 days.”

STATE OF VERMONT,  
CLARENDON, AUGUST 14, 1782. }

“To the Pay Roll:—

This is to certify, that Benjamin Stevens, and Ebenezer Hopkins were taken prisoners, while in the State Service, on the 12th day of May, 1779, and carried to Canada, with Ephraim Stevens, at the same time lost their guns and accoutrements, and were exchanged on the 9th of June last.”

THOMAS SAWYER, Captain.

STATE OF VERMONT,  
ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR’S OFFICE, }  
MONTPELIER, JUNE 13, 1894.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, from the records on file in this office, regarding soldiers who served in the Revolutionary War.

T. S. PECK, Adj. and Ins. Genl.

CAPTAIN SAWYER, during his military service, continued his family residence in Clarendon until 1783, when he removed to Salisbury, in Addison County, Vermont, where he entered at once into the active work

of opening up, and developing that promising section of the State. He erected there the first saw mill, and grist mill, in that region, sawing the first log on the first day of June, 1783. He soon after built a forge, for the working of iron, and in 1786, he introduced, and kept the first flock of sheep in Addison County. Foremost in public spirit, he was, in recognition of his ability by his fellow citizens, chosen the first representative of the town of Leicester, Vermont, to the Legislature, and filled that office for three successive years. His place of residence was, at what is now Salisbury village. At that early day it was supposed to be in the town of Leicester, but years afterwards, when the dispute as to town boundaries was finally settled, Captain Sawyer's place was included in the town of Salisbury.

He continued to reside there until 1795, a period of twelve years, when attracted by the opening prospects of the then far West, he disposed of his property and removed to Manchester, Ontario County, New York, where he died in 1796, aged 55 years.

A man of stalwart frame, and iron mould, he left alike the impress of his physical characteristics, and his moral and intellectual traits, the best inheritance for his descendants. In the four strains of blood, which have mingled in the veins of the writer of this sketch, it is not difficult to distinguish those traits which he has inherited from his Sawyer ancestry. It is but the payment of a debt of honor and appreciation, justly due to high endeavor, honorable service and stalwart character, when the record of them is placed upon these pages.

#### PRUDENCE SAWYER.

PRUDENCE SAWYER was the daughter of Captain Thomas, and Prudence Carter, Sawyer. She was born in Templeton, Worcester, Co., Massachusetts, Jan. 14, 1767.



When ten years of age, in November, 1777, her parents removed to Clarendon, Vermont. She was old enough to appreciate the hardships, and privations of frontier life, and down to her old age, she used to relate to her children's children, many incidents of the Revolutionary era. It was from her dictation, when past eighty years of age, that the account of the Shelburn Battle, given in these pages, was written.

She was married to JESSE WALKER, of Whiting, Vermont, March 14, 1793.

She died August 13, 1856, in the 90th year of her age. For further account of her life, reference is given to the sketch of the WALKER FAMILY, in this volume.

“The memory of the just is blessed.”

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NOTE.—In the massacre of the people of Lancaster, Massachusetts, by the allied forces of Wampanoags, Narragansetts, Nipmucks, and Nashaways, under the lead of King Philip of Mt. Hope, on the 10th of February, 1676, as noted on page 37, EPHRAIM SAWYER, the second son of Thomas Sawyer, aged twenty-six years, was one among the fifty who were slain. He was a brother of the great grandfather of Prudence Sawyer.

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NOTE.—“On the 24th of August, 1804, the town of Worcester, Mass., voted that the select men should see, and take care of the master, concerning the Negro. That the town of Ipswich has notified this town to take and support Edom Landon, a poor negro man, and find out where he ought to be supported. He was sold several times previous to 1775. He was in the eight months' service, in behalf of his master, in Cambridge, and at the expiration of the eight months, was sold by his master—Stimson, to Thomas Sawyer, of Winchendon, with whom he lived some time. He was then sold by Mr. Sawyer, to Daniel Goodrich, of Worcester, in July, 1776, where he died some time after the year 1804.”

Slavery was not legally abolished in Massachusetts until 1780, and then only indirectly, as the result of phrases inserted in the State Constitution of that year.

## THE GILE FAMILY.

Two brothers, JOHN and SAMUEL GILE, or GUILLE, arrived in this country about the year 1636. They at first located in Dedham, Massachusetts, where John remained and spent the balance of his life. His descendants, a numerous family, spell the name Guild.

### SAMUEL GILE.

SAMUEL GILE, after a short time, removed to Newbury, where he remained until 1640, in June of which year, he was one of the company of "twelve resolute men," formed by the Rev. Nathaniel Ward, of Ipswich, to commence the settlement of Haverhill. As his name appears of record, among those first settlers, it is spelled Gile, while some of his descendants have spelled it Guile. Whence those brothers came, is not positively known.

The author of the "Guild, Guile, Gile," Genealogy, Mr. Charles Burleigh, says they are "supposed to have been born in England," while another author, Mr. Howard Redwood Guild, a descendant of John Gile, after careful study, and personal investigation, both in England and Scotland, finds what he regards as conclusive evidence, that the family is of Scottish origin.

The location of the new settlement, on the Merrimac river, was originally known by the name "Pentucket."

The name was changed upon the arrival of Rev. John Ward, from Essex County, England, in 1641, to Haverhill, out of compliment to his birthplace. Mr. Ward who

was a son of Rev. Nathaniel Ward, of Ipswich, became pastor, and continued his ministry in Haverhill for more than fifty years. Those twelve first settlers were described as "very desirable men and good Christians."

It was the intention of the company to purchase the Indian title, to the land to be occupied, at the outset, but the purchase was not fully consummated until November 15, 1642, when the deed was made, by two Chiefs of the tribe, "Passaquo," and "Saggahew." The tract, embraced in the purchase, extended fourteen miles east and west, along the river, and six miles north from the river. The first town meeting was held, in 1642, and the records of births, and marriages and deaths, were commenced and carefully kept from that time.

SAMUEL GILE was that year made a "freeman," by the General Court. He was born about the year 1618—married September 1, 1647, JUDITH DAVIS, daughter of James Davis, one of the twelve original settlers, and an emigrant from England.

He made choice of lands, from time to time, as lands were allotted to the different settlers, from 1650 to 1658 and 1663.

The town was not laid out, by the General Court, until 1667. Tradition, and record, are alike silent, as to the personal history of most of those first settlers, and that of Samuel Gile forms no exception. He died in Haverhill, February 21, 1683, leaving one daughter, and three sons, three children having died before that time. The inventory of his personal, and real estate, shows that by a life of industry, he had accumulated a reasonable competency; three hundred acres of land, and other property, valued at £336.6s.

*Samuel - 1683  
Sarah, m. Peter Pitkin*



His old homestead in Haverhill, after two hundred and fifty years, from the time of his first settlement, still remains in the possession of his descendants.

### JAMES GILE.

JAMES GILE, son of Samuel Gile, and Judith Davis, Gile, was born in Haverhill, August 27, 1660—married February 21, 1688-9, RUTH PARKER, daughter of Rev. Thomas Parker, who arrived in America in the ship "Hector," in May, 1634, "sat down at Ipswich for about a year," and then, in 1635, was one of a company, who were granted liberty by the General Court, to remove to "Quafcacanquen," and there establish a new plantation.

The place was incorporated under the name of Newberry. The church gathered there was the tenth church established, in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, and Mr. Parker was chosen its first Pastor. It was from this church, that the first settlers went forth to "Pentucket," and there made the town of Haverhill.

It was a very natural proceeding for the son of one of the "twelve original settlers," of that town, to form acquaintance, in the place from which those settlers came, and thus, in time, the daughter of the Newberry Pastor, became the wife of young James Gile, of Haverhill.

That was in 1688. Up to that time, the settlement had escaped the horrors of Indian warfare. The war of King Philip, from 1675 to 1676, by which the southern settlements of New England were sorely stricken, had left Haverhill fortunately spared.

The great struggle, between England and France, for supremacy on this continent, had just begun. For the next twenty years, as Haverhill was on the frontier, it was exposed to the full force of savage warfare, which

was waged under French control, and direction, by the Indians of Canada, and Maine. There was almost a continuous reign of panic, and impending horrors. At several points in the settlement, soldiers were kept constantly under arms, and every man who ventured to his field for work, must needs always carry his musket for protection.

It was in such troublous times as these, that JAMES GILE lived, and wrought, and died. History does not record in detail, the individual part that he played, but from his lineage, we may be sure it was no ignoble part.

He was a house carpenter by trade, as well as farmer. The inventory of his estate shows that he was possessed of a considerable landed estate, amounting in the aggregate to £160 in value.

He had eight children. He died in Haverhill, April 29, 1705.

#### JOSEPH GILE.

JOSEPH GILE, son of James Gile, and Ruth Parker, Gile, was born in Haverhill, November 28, 1691. At the time of the attack upon Haverhill by French Canadians and Indians, on Sunday morning, August 29, 1708, he was a lad of seventeen years of age. History scarcely records a more fearful slaughter, than that which followed, when the Minister, Rev. Benjamin Rolfe, a graduate of Harvard, of scholarly attainments, and high excellence of character, was slain, and forty of his people were either massacred, or carried into captivity; or a more heroic defence than that of the rallying settlers, as they pursued the retreating foe, and saved the place from utter destruction.

There were two soldiers in his house, at the time of the attack, but panic stricken, they failed to protect

the Minister. Leaping from his bed, he strove to hold the door against them. Finding this impossible, he fled through the house, after being wounded by a bullet, fired through the door, but was overtaken, and killed with a hatchet. His wife was also brained with a hatchet, and her infant was torn from her arms, and its brains dashed out against a stone near the door.

The situation of New England was most alarming, but the heroic inhabitants still kept up their courage, though it was ten years thereafter before peace again came to their firesides. It is reasonable to suppose that young JOSEPH GILE did his full share, on that bloody day, towards the protection of the lives of those who escaped from the savage onslaught. From that time forth, active measures of defence were continued for many years, but no further attacks were made upon Haverhill, and the settlers were left to devote themselves to the arts of peace.

JOSEPH GILE married January 9, 1717-8, MARY HEATH, grand-daughter of ——— Heath who was one of the early settlers of Haverhill in 1645. They had eight children, born in Haverhill previous to 1732.

He was living in Kingston, N. H., in 1742. This town was originally a part of Haverhill, Massachusetts. As to his subsequent life, no record has been found. It is supposed that he died in Kingston.

#### MOSES GILE.

MOSES GILE, son of Joseph Gile, and Mary Heath, Gile, was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, February 15, 1719-20—married first, November 11, 1741.

EUNICE JOHNSON, who died ———, leaving one son, Moses Gile, Jr.



He married, second, MARY HEATH, by whom he had nine children.

From Haverhill Mr. Gile removed to Hampsted, N.H., at some time before 1755, at which time he removed to Weare, N. H., where he owned a farm of 130 acres.

In 1770 he sold his farm and removed to Chester, Vermont. He there at once identified himself with the foremost citizens, and took an active part in public affairs. He owned a farm of about 200 acres, of rich intervalle land, on the Williams river. Its location was most charming and picturesque. There he built a substantial two story frame house, and made his home, for the remainder of his life. The ancient records of the town, and church, show that he was held in the highest esteem, and honor.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE GRANTS.

Among other towns, organized under charter issued by Benning Wentworth, Governor of New Hampshire, was the town of "New Flamstead." The proprietors under this charter, were mostly residents of Worcester, Mass.

At a meeting of those proprietors, held in Worcester, March 8, 1763, Thomas Chandler was chosen Moderator. Soon after that Thomas Chandler, with his two sons, Thomas, and John, took up their residence in the new town. Upon their arrival there, another town meeting was held, March 12, 1765, at the house of William Warner, in New Flamstead. Thomas Chandler was again chosen Moderator. This was the last town meeting, under the New Hampshire charter.

In January, 1766, the domains west of the Connecticut river, having been declared by King George III, to be within the Province of New York, Thomas Chandler re-

ceived, and accepted a commission, from the Governor of New York, as Justice of Peace, for Albany County. There was also at that time, a military organization, of which Chandler was chosen Colonel.

For the purpose of securing further title to their lands, as they had not been driven to desperation by the Executive Officers of New York, many of the settlers on the New Hampshire Grants, on the east side of the Green Mountains, quietly submitted to the jurisdiction of that colony. On July 14, 1766, Colonel Chandler, and thirty-six others, proprietors of New Flamstead, under the New Hampshire Grant, obtained a new Charter from New York, and gave to the place, the name, CHESTER.

This was in effect, a confirmation of the New Hampshire charter. Under this New York jurisdiction and charter, Col. Chandler was, on July 14, 1766, appointed, by the Governor of New York, first Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, in Albany County. Chester soon became one of the most important settlements in all that region.

#### THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA.

In 1766 Samuel Adams, a member of the Massachusetts Legislature, or General Court, wrote a Circular Letter addressed to the other Colonies, inviting their aid, in defence of their common rights of Americans.

In 1772 he proposed that the towns of Massachusetts, should appoint Committees of Correspondence, to consult with each other, about the common welfare. Such a step was strictly legal, but it virtually created a revolutionary legislative body, which the Governor could neither negative, dissolve, nor prorogue. Within a few months, eighty towns had chosen their Committees of

Correspondence, and the system was in full operation. The next Spring, 1773, inter-colonial Committees of Correspondence were formed. The next step was the assembling of the inter-colonial Commission, in one place, speaking in the name of the United Colonies, a Continental Congress, which ultimately superceded, the Royal Governments.

The sending of tea ships, in 1773, was an act of aggression, which forced the issue upon the Colonies.

The Tea party was in the hands of the Committee of Correspondence, of Boston, and five neighboring towns, with the expressed consent of the other Massachusetts Committees, and the general approval of the Country. The Boston Tea Party made war inevitable.

The Massachusetts Legislature met at Salem, in June, and then, and there, provision was made for the assembling of a Congress at Philadelphia, in September, 1774. In September, 1774, the first meeting of the Continental Congress was held.

Early in the year 1774, a Committee of Correspondence had been formed, in the City of New York, for the purpose of ascertaining the feelings of the inhabitants of that Province, in regard to the assumptions of the mother country.

Isaac Low, on the twenty-first of May of that year, as Chairman of the Committee, wrote to the Supervisors of Cumberland County, embracing territory east of the Hudson river, and Lake Champlain, for information, in regard to the measures, which the majority of the people there, would be likely to adopt in the impending crisis. The people of each town were invited to send delegates to a Convention, to be held in October following, pursuant to this invitation, from the Committee at New York.



On the 4th of October, 1774, four of the leading inhabitants of Chester, by written application, requested Judge Chandler, who was also Town Clerk, to call a town meeting "That it might be known by public expression, whether the people were willing to choose a Committee of Correspondence, to report to ye Committee of Correspondence at New York; whether they would stand for the privileges of North America; whether they were content to receive the late acts of Parliament as just, or would view them as unjust, oppressive and unconstitutional."

The meeting was accordingly called, and held on October 10, 1774. Judge Chandler was chosen Moderator. A Committee of five was appointed to join the County Committee, in preparing a report to the Committee of Correspondence, at New York. A week later on October 18, 1774, eighteen delegates, from twelve towns, representing the County, met in Convention at Westminster, and held a session of two days, of which Convention Col. John Hazelton, of Townsend, was chosen Chairman.

The act of Parliament imposing a tax on tea, and the "Boston Port Bill," were read, and the following action was taken:

*"We resolve to assist the People of Boston in defence of their liberties, to the extent of our abilities."*

This action was just ten months after the "Boston Tea Party" was held, and it shows how early, and how thoroughly, the Green Mountains Boys made common cause with the people of Massachusetts, in defence of Liberty.

It is interesting to note, that the incipient steps taken to consider the state of the country, contemplated a

correspondence, with the Committee of Correspondence at New York City. But when the Convention took action, the Committee at New York City, was entirely ignored, and the resolution was directed to the assistance of the people of Boston. This was but a popular expression, though an indirect one, of the determination of the people to yield nothing to New York, in relation to the question at issue, between themselves and that colony, in the contest for the independence of the future state of Vermont. On the 7th of February, 1775, another Convention was held at Westminster, in which there were twenty-one towns represented. The delegates were chosen in primary meetings, by the different towns. Foremost in responding to the call, for this Convention, was the town of Chester. MOSES GILE was a delegate from that town. The session lasted three days. "A standing Committee of Correspondence" was chosen. MOSES GILE was chosen a member of said "Committee to keep the country informed, of the doings of the Friends of Liberty," in the different Colonies, and took an active part, in the transaction of the important business, which looked forward to the impending Revolution. This Committee consisted of twenty-eight members, representing twenty-one towns.

Five of the members, were chosen Monitors to the Committee, to transmit letters, and convey intelligence to the Chairman. No more complete and efficient organization of true patriots, was ever anywhere to be found, than was this organization of the early settlers of Vermont, in aid and defence of American Liberty. It is worthy of note, that it was perfected, more than two months before the battles of Lexington, and Concord. Those hardy yeomen of the Green Mountains were

“Revolutionists before the Revolution.” The last Colonial Legislature of New York, sat and adjourned, in Albany, April 3d, 1775.

In 1778, as the record shows, MOSES GILE, when fifty-eight years of age, “served for one month and twenty-one days, in Lieut. Joseph Little’s Company, Col. Marsh’s Regiment of the military forces of Vermont.” He was as ready to shoulder his musket, as he was prompt and wise in council, in his official capacity as member of the Committee of Correspondence. He was recorded as a “freeman,” in 1779, and in 1781, he was Town Collector, and at the time of his death, February 14th, 1786, he was regarded the wealthiest man in Chester, his estate being valued at £.160. His wife, MARY HEATH, who survived him, died in Chester, June 6, 1795.

#### MOSES GILE, JR.

MOSES GILE, JR., son of Moses Gile, and Eunice Johnson, Gile, was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, February 1, 1742, married ELIZABETH GILKEY, daughter of William Gilkey, of Chester, Vermont, May 8, 1782. He was recorded as a “freeman,” in Chester, in 1779, and a Grand Juror, in 1781. He probably removed from Haverhill, Massachusetts, at about the same time of his father’s emigration to Vermont, in 1770. He was a farmer in Chester. In 1796, he removed to Mt. Holly, Vermont, where he built and owned a saw-mill, and there also owned a farm. There is no record to show that he was engaged in military service, during the period of the Revolution; but from the known character of the father, and his staunch patriotism, there can be no reason to doubt that the son, Moses Gile, Jr., was also a true, and



## CONCLUSION.

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In tracing the history of my ancestors, in America, from the early years of the Seventeenth Century, and noting the vicissitudes through which they passed in each successive generation, I am impressed with the thought that we little note, nor long remember, the cost at which our civil and religious institutions were purchased. We forget that it was only by unremitting toil, and patient endurance, by persistent industry, and heroic endeavor, that our fathers and mothers subdued the wild forests, overcame savage foes, and in wisdom laid the firm foundations of the Republic. From such as these I count it a high honor to be able to trace my lineage, for myself and my children, for two hundred and fifty years through the currents of unmixed New England Saxon blood. For what those ancestors were; for the sturdy qualities of honesty, integrity and virtue which they possessed; for the constancy with which they wrought in their generations, I pay to them the tribute of my highest appreciation and gratitude. Though not engraved upon monuments of bronze, their honored names are entitled to perpetual remembrance, in the affection of their descendants, and their worthy deeds to a record upon the pages of written history.

The preparation of this monograph has been accomplished, both as a pleasure, and from a sense of duty, which I owed, both to the generations which have preceded my own, and those which shall come after me.

In the laws of descent, there is force in blood and race. In moral and intellectual traits, the lines of heredity run through the centuries. The environment of one generation differs from that of each of its predecessors, yet the eternal principles of truth and justice, of honor and integrity, upon which true and upright character is built, are as changeless as God. No man may forecast what the future may reveal, but through all the changes of coming time, the work of the fathers will endure.

EDWIN SAWYER WALKER.

In Memory of  
WILLIAM GILKEY,  
Who died May 4, 1804,  
In the 70th year of his age.

The wintry blasts of death,  
Kill not the buds of Virtue. No, they spread  
Beneath the heavenly beams, of brighter sun,  
Through endless ages, into higher power.

In Memory of  
ELIZABETH GILKEY,  
Wife of William Gilkey,  
Who died February 18, 1800,  
In the 66th year of her age.

Vain world, farewell to you,  
Heaven is my native air;  
I bid my friends a short adieu,  
Impatient to be there.

ELIZABETH GILKEY.

ELIZABETH GILKEY, daughter of William, and Elizabeth Gilkey, was born in Leicester, Massachusetts, in the year 1761, removed to Chester, Vermont, in 1770—was married to MOSES GILE, JR., May 8, 1782.

They resided, after their marriage, in Chester, until 1796, during which time, six children were born to them. In that year, they removed to Mt. Holly, Vermont, where their youngest child, MALINDA GILE, was born, in the year 1799.

There Mr. Gile died in 1809, and after his decease, his widow, Elizabeth Gilkey, Gile, lived for some time with a daughter, in Danby, Vermont, and subsequently, for most of the time up to her decease, March 6, 1836, with her son, Dr. William Gile, of Leicester, Vermont.

The writer very distinctly remembers his grandmother Gile, as during the last months of her life, she was for some time, a member of his father's family. She was a thin, spare woman, of the height of about five feet and two inches, and weighing not more than one hundred and thirty pounds. She was of a gentle spirit, and the tradition is, that she was, in her girlhood, a Quaker. Until she was ten years of age, her home was in Leicester, Massachusetts, where there was a large Society, of Friends, of which, it is quite probable, her parents may have been members. The quaint epitaphs upon their tomb-stones, in Chester, would seem to indicate that they were people of kindred spirit, with the "Friend" poet, of the later time, the beloved WHITTIER.

#### MALINDA GILE.

MALINDA GILE was the youngest daughter of ELIZABETH GILKEY, and Moses Gile, Jr., born in Mt. Holly, Vermont, April 29, 1799, married May 16, 1824, to SAWYER WALKER of Whiting, Vermont. For further account of her life, reference is given, to the sketch of the GILE FAMILY, in this volume. "Her children arise up, and call her blessed."



## CONCLUSION.

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In tracing the history of my ancestors, in America, from the early years of the Seventeenth Century, and noting the vicissitudes through which they passed in each successive generation, I am impressed with the thought that we little note, nor long remember, the cost at which our civil and religious institutions were purchased. We forget that it was only by unremitting toil, and patient endurance, by persistent industry, and heroic endeavor, that our fathers and mothers subdued the wild forests, overcame savage foes, and in wisdom laid the firm foundations of the Republic. From such as these I count it a high honor to be able to trace my lineage, for myself and my children, for two hundred and fifty years through the currents of unmixed New England Saxon blood. For what those ancestors were; for the sturdy qualities of honesty, integrity and virtue which they possessed; for the constancy with which they wrought in their generations, I pay to them the tribute of my highest appreciation and gratitude. Though not engraved upon monuments of bronze, their honored names are entitled to perpetual remembrance, in the affection of their descendants, and their worthy deeds to a record upon the pages of written history.

The preparation of this monograph has been accomplished, both as a pleasure, and from a sense of duty, which I owed, both to the generations which have preceded my own, and those which shall come after me.

In the laws of descent, there is force in blood and race. In moral and intellectual traits, the lines of heredity run through the centuries. The environment of one generation differs from that of each of its predecessors, yet the eternal principles of truth and justice, of honor and integrity, upon which true and upright character is built, are as changeless as God. No man may forecast what the future may reveal, but through all the changes of coming time, the work of the fathers will endure.

EDWIN SAWYER WALKER.

## THE GILKEY FAMILY.

THE earliest record of the GILKEY family in America, which the writer has been able to find, dates back only to the beginning of the 18th century, in connection with the early settlement of Leicester, in Worcester County, Massachusetts. The territory which included that town, was purchased of the Indians in 1686. There were fifty families settled there, previous to 1722. A Baptist Church was organized in 1738. The first minister was Rev. Thomas Green, a native of Malden, Massachusetts, and one of the early settlers. He was also a physician of considerable note in his time.

As early as 1732, eight persons filed their certificate with the town clerk, that they belonged to the Society known as "Friends," and they there organized a separate Society, of that persuasion. This Society, it seems, lived and flourished. Their "Meeting House," erected in 1791—"commodious and of good proportions," was still standing in 1840, says the historian of that day, and the Society numbered one hundred and thirty members.

### WILLIAM GILKEY.

WILLIAM GILKEY was born in 1733. The place of his birth is unknown. As others of the early settlers of Leicester, were from Malden, it is not improbable that his family were, also, originally from that town. The earliest record found, shows that he married ELIZABETH       , who was born in 1734, and they were residents of Leicester, Massachusetts, and had a son, WILLIAM GILKEY, JR., born there in 1758. This son, with his father, about the year 1770, removed to, and settled in

devoted friend of liberty, and that he did his full share in helping to furnish the sinews of war, and secure his country's Independence. He was remembered by his son, DR. WILLIAM GILE, of Leicester, Vermont, as a "kind, indulgent and pious father." He died, and was buried in Mt. Holly, Vermont, in 1809. He had seven children. His widow, ELIZABETH GILKEY, GILE, survived him, and died in Leicester, Vermont, March 6, 1836, aged 75 years. She was buried in the cemetery in Leicester.

#### MALINDA GILE.

MALINDA GILE, youngest daughter of Moses Gile, Jr., and Elizabeth Gilkey, Gile, was born in Mt. Holly, Vermont, April 29, 1799. She was married to SAWYER WALKER, of Whiting, Vermont, May 16, 1824.

She enjoyed such advantages for education only, as were common in the country schools of Vermont, at the beginning of the century. Before her marriage, she taught school for two or three seasons. She was a woman gifted by nature, with a voice of peculiar sweetness and power, an exquisite taste for the beautiful, and by study and reflection, she supplemented a naturally poetic temperament, by a deep insight into the realms of religious thought. An habitual reader of the Bible, she made its study a means of mental discipline, as it was also, a source of true spiritual enjoyment.

She died in St. Marie, Green Lake County, Wisconsin, April 3, 1863.



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*Malinda Walker*

Taken at age of 58 years.





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